

## **OREGON GLOBAL WARMING COMMISSION PRINCIPLES**

Adopted by the Commission on November 18, 2008

The following general principles will guide Oregon Global Warming Commission actions:

- A. Oregon's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and solutions must be meaningful, firmly grounded in best available science and technology (and modified as the science evolves), and lead to effective reductions in Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions.
- B. Oregon's GHG emissions reduction goals should be commensurate with the state's emissions relative to global emissions.
- C. Oregon should first begin with the most cost-effective solutions, construing "cost" broadly to include near-term and long-term environmental, social and economic considerations, fairly weighing demand and supply options, and not neglecting actions that may have small near-term benefits but significant long-term potential.
- D. Oregon should seek solutions that afford environmental and other co-benefits such as reducing other pollutants, or assisting businesses and households to cope with rising energy prices.
- E. To the fullest extent possible, Oregon's actions should be designed to serve both the long-term economic well-being of the State and the goal of stabilizing GHG atmospheric concentrations at manageable levels.
- F. Recognizing that there are always tradeoffs between a long-term investment strategy and near-term costs and cash flow, the Commission believes Oregon can and should be a leader - but not so far ahead of other jurisdictions that Oregon's businesses are disadvantaged. The State will need to build flexibility into its market and regulatory tools to relieve short-term competitive pressures if others aren't living up to their responsibilities.
- G. Oregon should be creating long-term economic well-being with an "investment

strategy” that buys efficiency savings, new technologies, energy price stability and a long-term competitive edge in selling – and profiting from – the tools developed and the lessons learned.

- H. Oregon’s actions will be guided by the need to protect access to reliable and affordable energy, and to needed goods, services and markets.
- I. Oregon will act to broaden Oregonians’ employment, housing, transportation and energy choices so lower greenhouse gas alternatives are available and affordable. Oregonians preferring choices that result in higher greenhouse gas emissions must be prepared to pay the costs of those choices.
- J. Oregon will look for ways to support innovation, especially if it leads to marketable products and services.
- K. Oregon will partner with other states, Canadian provinces, tribal nations and other nations, where doing so will enhance the effectiveness of state actions and their co-benefits for Oregonians, recognizing that our actions will be most effective when they align corresponding actions by others.
- L. Oregonians will strive to take responsibility for emissions from their purchasing decision and waste disposal choices.
- M. Reducing the state’s greenhouse gas emissions won’t eliminate the need to adapt to the warming climate that will result from changes to both human and natural ecosystems already fixed in the atmosphere. Oregon’s adaptation strategies must continually evolve, be integrated into long-term planning, and address whole systems rather than individual effects
- N. Oregon is committed to equity in allocating both costs and benefits of this enterprise, paying special attention to those businesses and households least able to respond with their own resources. We recognize that emissions reductions will not be captured proportionately across all sectors, or across urban, suburban and rural communities. Cost effectiveness will condition allocation of responsibilities.